



CAO's Corner

By Susan S. Muranishi,
County Administrator

Alameda County faces an \$88.1 million budget gap in the coming fiscal year, as State cuts and new responsibilities in law enforcement weigh heavily on local finances. If adopted, State budget cuts proposed by Governor Brown would negatively impact vital programs including support for individuals and families affected by unemployment and child-care to help parents obtain and keep productive jobs. More difficulties are likely to come with the sweeping shift of responsibility for low-level adult offenders and parole violators from the State to local government under the Governor's "realignment" program. For instance, it is expected that Alameda County will lose more than \$20 million because we will no longer be able to contract with the State and federal governments to house inmates from other communities in local jails. If there is a silver lining, it is the excellent job our department heads and employees have done to keep costs down. Most County employees have gone at least three years without cost-of-living salary increases, while departments have held positions vacant, reduced operating expenses and implemented efficiency initiatives. The Board of Supervisors will hold budget hearings in late June with a Final Budget scheduled for approval by July 1.

2012 Women's Hall of Fame a Huge Success for Charities and Youth

Four East Bay charities received \$2,500 each from proceeds raised by the Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame, which honored 11 local women on March 31 for their outstanding contributions to improve the quality of life in our local communities. A packed house of nearly 500 people turned out at the Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Oakland for the event, co-sponsored by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors and the County's Commission on the Status of Women. Alameda County Administrator Susan S. Muranishi, the event co-chair, presented a \$2,000 youth scholarship to Arooj Haq, a senior at San Leandro High School. Arooj, 17, said the money would be put to good use as she plans to begin studying at UC Santa Barbara in the fall. Funds raised by the Women's Hall of Fame program paid for the scholarship as well as \$2,500 donations to the East Oakland Youth Development Center, the Davis Street Family Resource Center, Sojourner Truth Housing and the Women's Initiative for Self-Employment. In addition



Inductees and dignitaries gather at 2012 Women's Hall of Fame. Left to right: Sherry Hu, Mistress of Ceremony; Supervisor Keith Carson; County Administrator Susan S. Muranishi; Bonnie Wheatley, Commission on the Status of Women; Dawn Shaughnessy, Science inductee; Nicole Taylor, Philanthropy; Arooj Haq, Youth; Barbara Bernstein, Community Service; Oral Brown, Education; Connie Galambos Malloy, Environment; Pamela Arbuckle Alston, DDS, Health; Mildred Howard, Culture and Art; Terry Alderete, Business and Professions; Debby De Angelis, Sports and Athletics; and Jocelyn Larkin, Justice.

to Arooj, who was inducted in the Youth category, other Hall of Fame inductees were: Oral Brown of Oakland, Education; Terry Alderete of Newark, Business and Professions; Barbara Bernstein of Berkeley, Community Service; Mildred Howard of Berkeley, Culture and Art; Connie Galambos Malloy of Oakland, Environment; Pamela Arbuckle Alston, DDS, of Oakland, Health; Jocelyn Larkin of Berkeley, Justice; Nicole Taylor of Oakland, Philanthropy; Dawn Shaughnessy of Livermore, Science; and Debby De Angelis of Hayward, Sports and Athletics. Nominations are already being accepted for the 2013 Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame, which will be the event's 20th Annual celebration. Go to <http://www.acgov.org/cao/halloffame/> to nominate someone online or to download a nominations form.

Bilingual Poll Workers Needed

The Registrar of Voters Office needs bilingual poll workers to work at polling places for the June 5 Presidential Primary Election. The Registrar is looking for poll workers fluent in English as well as one of four other languages: Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog (Filipino) and Vietnamese. Poll workers must be registered to vote and must attend a

mandatory training session prior to Election Day. Poll workers earn between \$110 and \$180 for their service. Bilingual poll workers can earn \$10 extra, but must attend an additional bilingual poll worker training and fluency assessment. To learn more, go to <http://www.acgov.org/rov/workers.htm> or contact the Registrar of Voters office at (510) 272-6971

County Celebrates Earth Week

To recognize Earth Day, Alameda County this year is again taking bold steps to underscore its aggressive approach to using alternative energy and conserving natural resources.



During the week following Earth Day – Sunday, April 22 – daily announcements were sent to all County employees reminding them of the many ways they can help the County’s ongoing push toward increasing its planet-friendly practices.

Earth Week messages encourage County employees to:

- use the Zimride ridesharing program for commutes to and from the office;
- reduce paper storage and emphasize electronic filing of data;
- emphasize energy efficiency when researching the purchase of a new computer or other electronics equipment;
- try public transit

The Earth Week program comes on the heels of several major Earth-friendly efforts Alameda County has launched in recent months. These include the installation of a first-of-its-kind Smart Grid energy system at Santa Rita Jail that emphasizes the use of alternative energy at the jail and allows Santa Rita to operate independent of the power grid in the event of a major power outage.

Alameda County Celebrates Youth and Adult Leadership Academy Graduations

Alameda County recently completed its Youth and Adult Leadership Academy sessions for 2011-12, graduating more than 60 people from the two popular annual programs that use group discussions and presentations from top County managers to teach leadership skills and enhance public knowledge of the workings of local government. Participants in each program take part in several free interactive sessions during the fall that teach them about the workings of County government, and go behind the scenes to show how Alameda County meets its missions to provide first-rate services in the areas of law enforcement, health care services, social services, elections, environmental protection, Budget development and long-term strategic planning. The Adult Leadership Academy is open to adults who live, work or do business in Alameda County. The Youth Leadership Academy is for juniors and seniors who attend high schools in Alameda County.



To learn more about the Alameda County Adult Leadership Academy, go to www.acgov.org/adultleadership/

To learn more about the Alameda County Youth Leadership Academy, go to <http://www.acgov.org/youthleadership/>

Rosie Rios, Treasurer of the United States, Offers Insights to Local Officials


Rosie Rios, Treasurer of the United States, returned to her East Bay roots on March 19 to offer local leaders her views on the state of the national economy and the federal budget. Ms. Rios, who grew up in Hayward, said that despite her move to Washington D.C. her focus continues to be on Main Street. “They say all politics is local – I believe all business is local,” she said. In her talk, sponsored by the Alameda County Budget Workgroup, Ms.



U.S. Treasurer Rosie Rios (left) with Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson and County Administrator Susan S. Muranishi at March 19th Budget Forum in Oakland.

Rios touted two programs that illustrate the federal government’s commitment to local communities: the Build America Bonds program, which helps states and local governments pursue capital projects that build infrastructure and create jobs; and the Small Business Jobs Act, which has allowed more than \$1.4 billion to be appropriated to help small businesses. Ms. Rios also participated in a panel discussion in which she was joined by Nicole Taylor of the East Bay Community Foundation and Ophelia Basgal of the federal department of

Housing and Urban Development. They each offered insights about the challenges facing women in high-ranking leadership positions. The next day, Ms. Rios visited with executives from several Alameda County manufacturing firms to assess their needs and to assure them that the Obama administration is committed to sustaining what appears to be a national manufacturing resurgence.



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Alameda County Provides Check of \$25,000 to Japan Earthquake Relief Effort

In March, Alameda County donated \$25,000 to go to the Northern Japan Earthquake & Tsunami Relief Fund to provide direct aid to people still struggling in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan in March 2011. It was the second \$25,000 check the County has given for earthquake relief in Japan; the first was presented last November. The funds came from the approximately \$50,000 Alameda County Employees donated through cash donations and contributions of unused vacation time. The donations were made through the Alameda County Disaster Relief Fund, which was activated by the Board of Supervisors shortly after the earthquake. County Administrator Susan S. Muranishi was in Japan at the time of the earthquake as part of a delegation of Japanese American leaders working to strengthen US-Japan ties. In a letter that accompanied the latest \$25,000 donation, Muranishi wrote: "The aftermath of the massive earthquake and the devastation from the tsunami was a life-changing experience that strengthened our resolve to provide assistance to the people of Japan."

Website Helps County Residents Find Health Care Resources

Alameda County is turning to the world of online communications to help local residents find low-cost health services. The County has launched [ACHealthCare.org](http://www.acgov.org/healthcare), the first website in the nation to compile all low-cost, no-cost health services by price, language, and location for local residents.

The Innovative website allows consumers to search for health services by specialty care, price range, language, and location. Local health providers involved in the project say they're excited to enter the digital age with a website that's easy to use and responsive to the needs of their patients. The project is the brainchild of the Access to Care Collaborative, a public-private partnership of local safety-net health providers eager to come up with a user-friendly tool to help consumers meet their health needs. For more information, call Beth Newell of the Alameda Health Consortium at (510) 297-0230

County Links

Alameda County Government <http://www.acgov.org/government.htm>
Alameda County Board of Supervisors <http://www.acgov.org/board/>
Lookup/pay Property Taxes <http://www.acgov.org/propertytax/index.htm>
Awards won by Alameda County <http://www.acgov.org/awards/>
Links to Alameda County Departments and Agencies <http://www.acgov.org/departments.htm>
Employment with Alameda County <http://www.acgov.org/employment.htm>
Alameda County forms <http://www.acgov.org/formcenter.htm>
Alameda County Superior Court <http://www.alameda.courts.ca.gov/>

For a calendar of Alameda County events, visit the County website at <http://www.acgov.org/calendar>. Also check the websites of the members of the Board of Supervisors (listed under Board contacts on the left side of this page).